Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Figure 1 is~~ <u>Figures 1 and 1-1 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Figure 1") are</u> a block diagram of the structure of an improved name searching and comparison system according to the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 shows the software modules incorporated in name classifier module 102 in more detail. Name classifier module 102 incorporates a name classifier control module 302, a linguistically informed decision (LID) processor 304, a digraph distribution processor 306, and a final decision processor ~~308~~ <u>309</u>. Digraph distribution processor 306 incorporates digraph information processor 312 and digraph intermediate decision processor 314.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in Figure 4, processed information from linguistic information aggregator 308 passes to LID intermediate decision processor 310, where it is processed and the results passed to digraph distribution processor 306 or to final decision processor ~~308~~ <u>309</u> (shown in Figure 3).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

Assuming the name has not been definitely identified, the surname portion is processed by digraph distribution processor 306. Based on a statistical model derived from digraph distribution statistics for names within various cultures, processor 306 computes a likelihood that the input name has a particular cultural origin. The information gathered from LID and digraph

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processing is combined, along with any other available information on the person (such as country of birth), in final decision processor ~~308~~ <u>309</u>. The available factors are weighted according to their confidence level to maximize the likelihood of an accurate ethnic origin evaluation. The result is an output indicating the likely classification of the name.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

The high frequency processor operation begins in Block 808 with generation of keys for the given names. Then, in block 810, records are retrieved according to a high frequency surname matrix and the given name keys. Control then passes to filter and sorter 610 (shown in Fig. ~~5~~ <u>6</u>).